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## SOME OF THE NEW BOOKS

An Amusing Book.

This volume of "Letters from a Self-made Merchant to His Son" purports to be a collection of epistles written by John C. Graham, head of the house of Graham & Co., pork packers in Chicago, and familiarly known as "Change as 'Old Gorgon Graham," to his son Pierrepoint. The first letter of the series is addressed to the young man just after he has entered the freshman class at Harvard, and is an essay of an original sort on education. "Some-

men," the writer says, "get an education from other men and the newspapers and public libraries, and some get it from professors and parchment; it doesn't make any special difference how you get a half-Nelson on the right thing, just so you get it and freeze on to it." The language, it will be noted from this brief quotation, is the vernacular of the street, and quite in keeping with the business of Mr. Graham is the nature of his illustrations. All of them are drawn from his experience in the packing business. Still discourses of education, he says: "You can cure a ham in dry salt and you can cure it in sweet pickle, and when you're packing a ham, you're either eating either way, provided you started in with a sound ham. If you didn't, it doesn't make any special difference how you cured it—the ham troyer's going to strike the sore spot around the bone. And it doesn't make any difference how fancy and fancy you pickle you soak into a fellow, he's no good unless he's sound and sweet at the core."

A little later the son's expense account is before him and he takes occasion to recommend economy and to warn him that because he is the son of the "old man" he is not to expect special favors when he enters the business. "There is just one place from which a man can start for that position (an important one in the firm) with Graham & Co. It doesn't make any difference whether he is the son of the old man or of the cellar boss—that place is the bottom. And the bottom in the office end of this business is a seat at the mailing desk, with eight dollars every Saturday night. I can't hand out any ready-made success to you. It would do you no good, and it would do the house harm. There is plenty of room at the top here, but there is no elevator in the building."

The time arrives when Pierrepoint desires to take a post-graduate course, and the "old man" informs him that as he is not going to be a poet, but a packer, the place to take the post-graduate course for is in the packing house. "There's a chance for everything you have learned," the "old man" says from his private car, sometimes from Hot Springs, sometimes from New York, all containing sage advice, emphasized by appropriate anecdotes. Eventually the young man is promoted and "goes on the road," receiving communications from his father at points in Indiana and elsewhere. Humor and common sense and the spirit of successful American commerce are intermingled in these pages in a remarkable and most ef-

fectiveness in any other land. For though human nature is the same whatever the race or the country, yet to make the portrait accurate the setting must be given also. The setting in this case is Egypt and Arabia and Mr. Parker succeeds in conveying the Oriental atmosphere with hardly less success than he depicts the peculiar characters of Canada in "The Seats of the Mighty" and "The Rich of the East." "Donovan Pasha," "Dicky" Donovan, an Englishman supposed to be in the service of the Khedive of Egypt in a confidential capacity at a time when that personage needed all his friends. This gives him much freedom of movement and an acquaintance with many natives of various degrees. He has numerous adventures and these form the separate tales of the volume. Donovan is a well-drawn character and his personality is distinct and pleasing. The way in which his direct English methods come in conflict with Oriental trickery and deception makes the charm of the stories. Publishers are continually saying that books of short stories do not sell, but whoever is looking for a volume of thoroughly entertaining fiction will make no mistake in buying this.—D. Appleton & Co., New York.

### A Book of English Ballads.

George Wharton Edwards has done a real service to book lovers in gathering these ballads into a single volume. Ordinarily one who wishes to refresh his memory in regard to these old songs finds it necessary to delve through many volumes; to others these bits of English literature are virtually unknown because of their inaccessibility. An introduction to the book is an interesting essay by Hamilton Wright Mable on the ballad as a form of verse. In common with other writers of the subject, he holds that the early popular ballads were the work of the people, rather than of individuals; they were community expressions of traditions, of experiences of local or national incidents, etc., and crystallized gradually into their present form. They were the unwritten literature of their time, unwritten because unclaimed as personal possessions. In these days "there was no poet, because all were poets." Professor Von Brink is quoted as saying: "The work of the individual lived on; the ideal possession of the Chicago gate body of the people, and it soon lost its originality."

In the choice of the ballads in this volume no attempt is made to follow a chronological order. The aim is to offer those which seem best to represent the range of dramatic power and poetic feeling of this form of verse. The opening ballad is the tragic story of the battle of Chevy Chase, wherein the English "Erie Percy" met the Scottish "Erie Douglas" in mortal combat. When Douglas had fallen,

"Sir Hugh Montgomery was he called,  
Who, with a spear most bright,  
Went mounted on a gallant steed,  
Ran fiercely through the fight;  
And past the English archers all,  
Without all dread or alarm,  
And through Erie Percy's body there  
He thrust his hateful spear."

And then the survivors fell upon each other until,

"Of fifteen hundred Englishmen  
Went home but fifty-three;  
The rest were slain in Chevy Chase,  
Under the greenwood tree."

Many of them are pathetic, even melancholy, as "King Lear and His Three Daughters," "Fair Rosamond," "Barbara Allen's Cry," "Heaven of Kirkcubright," and "Annie Water." There was an unhappy thing in those days, the burden of more than one being of this sort:

"O, waly, waly, but I love be bonny,  
A little time while it is new,  
But when it's auld, it waxes cauld,  
And fades away like morning dew."

Robin Hood and his doings form the theme of a number of selections; also are given "The Two Corbies," "The Nut-brown Maid," "The Fauchon," "The Lament of the Border Widow," "The Banks of Yarrow," "Hugh of Lincoln," and others. The book is handsomely printed and contains numerous quaint drawings by the old-time literature. The Macmillan Company, New York.

### The Ship of Dreams.

When Louise Forsland wrote "The Story of Sarah" she reached the heart and life of the "longshoreman" on Long Island and laid it bare to the delighted eyes of her readers. Again she tells of that locality where truth and honor and the primitive sins and foibles of humanity have taken such a strong hold upon the sons and daughters of the early aristocrats of the island. "The Ship of Dreams" is a tale of fewer strands than "The Story of Sarah," and while it cannot be said to be stronger, yet in so far as simplicity is always best, it may be said to surpass the former book, though in dramatic power it hardly reaches its predecessor. "The Little Red Princess" is the heroine of this story, called so from being always clad in red stuff which she had at one time cast up, and which the frugal mother was only too thankful to fashion into dresses for this picturesque and poor fisher folk. The girl's grandmother, Madam Nancy, was taken when a child from the founding asylum into the family which dwelt in state at Pepperidge Manor. She was told by the lady who took her that she would be treated as one of the family instead of which she was turned into a wretched little Cinderella, with abuse and blows from all but the young lady of the house. At the pitiful age of fifteen she became the mother of this young man's son. Instigated by an older brother, Barnabas, Tanning took the poor child to "a beautiful tower," to conceal her from prying eyes, and to give her out of his way before his

marriage to a charming young girl of the neighborhood. The poor wail too late discovered that she had been dumped at the door of the poorhouse, where she stayed until after her boy was born. On the day of the great home coming feast to the newly-wedded pair, while the groom stood at the other end of the long table from his beautiful wife to give a toast, the curtain of roses and smiles was pushed aside and in walked Nancy with her young baby. "Everybody looks at me," she says later, "and somebody calls out to me sharp and sudden to 'Begone!' but I didn't care. I plumped down right there on my knees and abashed the baby light in one arm, and I lifted up the other to God in heaven, and I cursed the manor folks and all them as had to do with the manor forever and forever, as the Bible says, world without end. From that time on the fortunes of the family began to wane, due entirely to the curse every one felt, ignoring the incapacity and weakness of Barnabas—after that ill-fated time always called 'Cuss Fannin.' The legitimate grandson of Tanning falls in love with his illegitimate granddaughter, and the history of their grandparents seems in danger of repeating itself. To go more into the plot of this absorbing story is to spoil it for the reader. The book teems with quaint characters, whose drama and quality sayings are a pleasure. Harper & Brothers, New York.

### Private Soldier Under Washington.

"The Private Soldier Under Washington," by Charles Knowles Bolton, is the result of an exhaustive research, the purpose of which is to present the first American soldier in his true light. He was doubtless the best of his time, after he had become seasoned, because he was the most intelligent, but in patriotic purposes and in general characteristics he was very much like the soldiers on both sides in the war for the Union. He experienced more of hardship and privation. He was often scantily fed than well supplied; he was in rags a much larger part of his service than he was in uniform. He was without pay much of the time, and when he was paid it was in paper money, which had lost much of its purchasing power. Sometimes he was disposed to be mutinous, but when the cause was most hopeless the private of Washington's army was seduced by British money. The wonder is that under the harsh conditions Washington had any army and it is safe to say that because he was a great soldier and one of history's great commanders that he had an army that conquered. Very much was in the private soldier that he could march from south to north and north to south hundreds of miles without food and clothing. This book tells how the soldier of the Revolution existed in the camp life, what his hardships—as the tale is nowhere else told. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

### A Short Life of Abraham Lincoln.

This book, entitled "A Short Life of Abraham Lincoln," was written by one of his secretaries, John G. Nicolay, is ample guarantee of its authenticity. It is a condensation of the ten-volume life of Lincoln by Messrs. Nicolay and Hay. Into this volume of 378 pages Mr. Nicolay has introduced the more important events in the life of Lincoln. The author seems to have had a happy facility in judging of the relative importance of events so as to give each the space it demands. It is an accurate, if a condensed history, so that one who reads it will obtain quite as clear and correct an idea of the man as if he had read a full biography. This book was the last work of Mr. Nicolay, and it can be added that he could not have rendered American readers a greater service than he did in the preparation of it. Of histories of Lincoln there is a surfeit. Some of the writers have unwittingly done him great injustice by making a Lincoln of their own rather than telling of the man as he was. Few men have suffered more at the hands of a class of writers who draw upon their imagination for their facts. This book should take the place of that long list of "lives" of Abraham Lincoln which are lacking in fact and are little better than caricatures. The Century Company, New York.

### Literary Boston of To-Day.

The above named book is one of the Little Pilgrimage series and is the work of Helen M. Winslow. It contains the brief biographies of many well-known authors and of others not yet fully established in the literary world. One chapter is devoted to the leaders of "the new thought movement," among whom are Frank P. Stearns, Henry D. Lloyd, the well-known political economist, Horatio Dresser, Ralph Waldo Trine and Henry Wood. Another chapter treats of journalistic authors among them, H. Clement, editor-in-chief of Boston's most typical newspaper, the Evening Transcript; E. D. Bacon, who local is the reporter of the Boston Advertiser and was later managing editor, also author of books pertaining to Boston and vicinity; Louis Edson, musician, critic, journalist and author; Clinton Strang, of the Boston Journal, and others of the same fraternity equally versatile and distinguished in the literary life. Twenty-eight portraits adorn the volume. Its interest in local writers is not general, owing to the fact that so many of the persons named are scarcely known outside of Boston, yet as a book of reference and an index of the intellectual life of the city at the present time it has a distinct value. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.

### Caterpillars and Their Moths.

In response to what seemed to be a need of teachers and young naturalists "Caterpillars and Their Moths" has been written by two women who have made a life study

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6, COL. 3.)

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## IMPORTANT FEATURES

### The So-Called "Trusts"

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### A New Historical Series

THE CENTURY has made its greatest hits in history and biography,—the famous War Papers, the Life of Lincoln, etc. The coming volume, beginning with November, will contain a series of historical papers graphically describing the invasion of Canada in 1775 by Montgomery and Arnold,—"The Prologue of the American Revolution," written by Professor Justin Harvey Smith of Dartmouth College. The route of Arnold's march through the Maine woods has been followed and the most important fields of action have been repeatedly visited. Fully and interestingly illustrated.

### A Serial Novel by the Author of "No. 5 John St."

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### A Novelette by the Author of "The Rescue"

A story of woman's friendship, by Anne Douglas Sedgwick,—beginning in this number. Illustrated by Charlotte Harding.

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By John Muir, the California naturalist,—discoverer of the Muir Glacier in Alaska. A brilliant descriptive paper, with a drawing by Maxfield Parrish reproduced in color. Other color-pictures in this number are some of the same artist's drawings of "The Great Southwest."

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